Castro Fails to Turn on Water

HAVANA, Feb. 7 (AP)—Premier Fidel Castro tempered his denial of Cuban water to the United States Guantanamo Naval Base by announcing last night the supply will flow an hour each day so "civilians including women and children" won't suffer.

(In Washington, the Defense Department said the water "was not turned on this morning during the hours the Cuban government indicated it would be," 8 to 9 a.m.)

Castro told a conference for foreign newsmen the big base's supply from a Cuban river was turned off Thursday in retaliation for the arrest of 38 Cuban fishermen and the seizure of four fishing boats for trespassing in Florida waters.

"Ready to Die"

"We are ready to die before accepting humiliation and blackmail," he said heatedly.

Castro also challenged Sen. Barry Goldwater to lead the Marine invasion advocated by the Arizona Republican to get the water turned on again.

The Cuban leader warned that if the United States "tries to lay its hands on water sources, we will fight to the last man and let Barry Goldwater know it. He should be in the first line of invaders."

Castro said aggressive U.S. policies had encouraged Goldwater's statement.

To cheering political rallies in southern New Hampshire last night, Goldwater said President Johnson should warn Castro to restore the water or "we will march out with a detachment of Marines and turn it on ourselves."

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Castro told newsmen that Cuba had no desire "to harm civilians, including women and children." It therefore would provide water an hour daily but would withhold it the rest of the day from "industrial and other purposes," he said.

He said Cuba will maintain that action to "it's last consequences."

Castro said the fishing boats were on a "peaceful mission and were unarmed." He denied U.S. charges that the boats had entered U.S. territorial waters and accused American ships and planes of repeatedly violating Cuban waters and air space.

Surprised by Arrests

Castro said the arrest of the fishermen took him by surprise since the past few months had been without incidents and he had hoped no "new incidents would be created."

He said that Cuba has been pursuing a "peaceful policy" toward the United States which has been answered with "an aggression based only in U.S. military might."

Castro charged that the fishermen were "forced to go into U.S.A. territorial waters" and were being detained "under pressure and are being menaced and have no lawyer." He said the "Federal Government had washed its hands like Pontius Pilate" when it turned over the fishermen to the Florida courts.